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sequence. The sequence of the expressed nucleic acid insert is optimized for chicken codon usage. The present invention further includes expression vectors comprising an isolated avian lysozyme gene expression control region of the present invention, and transfected cells and transgenic avians comprising the expression vectors.--

**In the claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-7 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 8, 17, 22, 29 and 58 to read as follows:

8. (Amended) A recombinant DNA molecule comprising an isolated avian lysozyme gene expression control region operably linked to a nucleic acid insert encoding a heterologous polypeptide, wherein the lysozyme gene expression control region comprises:

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- (a) at least one 5' matrix attachment region;
  - (b) an intrinsically curved DNA region;
  - (c) at least one transcription enhancer;
  - (d) a negative regulatory element;
  - (e) at least one hormone responsive element;
  - (f) at least one avian CR1 repeat element; and
  - (g) a proximal lysozyme promoter and signal peptide-encoding region.

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17. (Amended) The recombinant DNA molecule of Claim 16, wherein the nucleic acid insert encoding an interferon  $\alpha 2b$  polypeptide comprises the sequence in SEQ ID NO: 66, or a degenerate variant thereof.

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22. (Amended) An expression vector that integrates into a host cell and comprising an isolated avian lysozyme gene expression control region operably linked to a nucleic acid insert encoding a heterologous polypeptide, wherein the expression control region directs production of a transcript, wherein the lysozyme gene expression control region comprises:

- (a) at least one 5' matrix attachment region;
- (b) an intrinsically curved DNA region;